

24 Nov. 1965

Miss Marjorie McAlinden
California Farmer
Room 402 - 2412 W. Seventh St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90057

Dear Miss McAlinden:

No. 1 - Appears to be a leaf from the box-elder (maple) Acer negundo. The samara fruits blow about abundantly and commonly germinate. They used to volunteer commonly in my yard and garden in Iowa City. This maple is a very weedy small tree. The flowers, and it does flower when small and only a few years old, are very inconspicuous with the sexes separate on different plants, the species being dioecious. It is one of our widest ranging trees, with races from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to Florida and Texas. It is both wind-pollinated and wind-dispersed. Your correspondent can assure the determination if she checks her plant and finds that the ternate or pinnately-compound leaves are opposite on the stem.

No. 2 - Is certainly, from the leaf and more so from the description, a Jimson Weed, Datura, probably D. stramonium L. It is an annual weed introduced from tropical America and widely naturalized in temperate America. The violet-flowered variety in var. tatula (L.) Torr. Since both of these plants are weedy, there should be no problem keeping them growing.

No. 3 - Seems to be a cultivated shrubby Eupatorium of the Aster Family, Asteraceae from Mexico, E. ligustrinum DC. It grows from 4-15 feet high, has white flowers and pink to deep rose pappus on the fruit. Another possibility is the cultivated E. glabratum HBK., also from Mexico, which grows to 3-8 feet tall but has more flowers in each head and the flowers are pale pink.

No. 4 - Is the very common weed, Conyza (or Erigeron) canadensis, horseweed, also of the Aster family. It is a very wide-ranging weed common everywhere in waste places or otherwise disturbed ground.

No. 5 - Is indeed pigweed, Amaranthus retroflexus, another coarse weed, of the pigweed family, Amaranthaceae. It too is a wide-ranging weed of disturbed or cultivated ground.

Best wishes to you too for an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Thorne